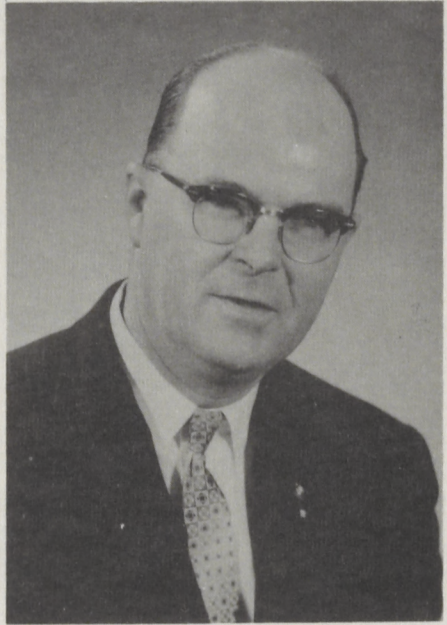




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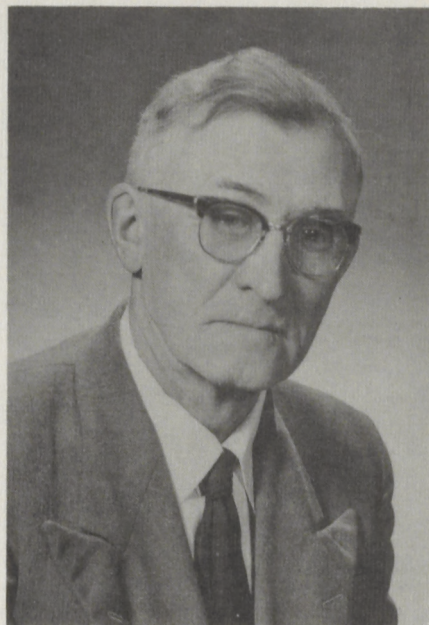


Inspector's Message

I am very pleased to have this opportunity of extending greetings and best wishes to the students of Thames school through the pages of your first yearbook. I am sure that you will have found the venture an interesting and challenging experience. To the Editorial Staff especially, I should like to extend congratulations. I trust that you will feel amply repaid for all your hard work in producing this book by the knowledge that it will bring a great deal of pleasure to all the students, especially in years to come, for this yearbook will be, I'm sure, a treasured keepsake.

To all the students, my best wishes for happiness and success, and especially to the Graduating Class in their future careers.

Sincerely,
John Callander



Dedication

The Thames school is dedicating this, its first yearbook to one of the District's Pioneers, Mr. Peter W. Giesbrecht. Born, and grown up in the district, he has always worked his farm, on which he raised a large family, of which two are school teachers.

Though being physically handicapped, he has always found time to serve in public office, being a strong supporter of higher education and a friend of the schools, he has served on the school board for many years, either as Chairman, Secretary, or Trustee member.

The Formation of the District, later the growing number of pupils during the depression years, securing the best teachers, with no living quarters to offer to them, brought its worries to the school board.

The Thames District with its present classrooms, and teacherages owes a great deal to stalwart men like Mr. Giesbrecht, who served on its school board for the most number of years.

—Rev. G. H. Penner

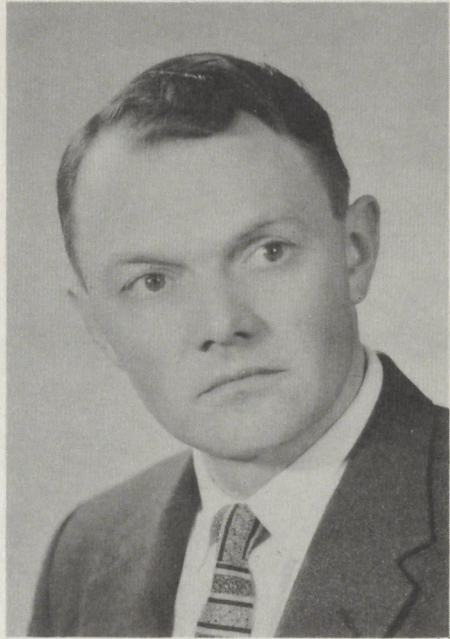


Chairman's Message

As a member of the Thames School Board it is my privilege to say that I also received my education in Thames South School. At that time, in 1929, we taught only up to Grade VIII. How times have changed! Now we teach up to Grade XI and have four class rooms. But the cost of education has also changed, for it costs much more now. Yet let us not evaluate education in dollars and cents only, but be thankful for the privilege of attending school. The students should be thankful to their parents for the opportunity of getting an education. In 1946 a two-roomed school was built. In 1959, a third room in the basement was opened for Grades IX to XI. At present we have 96 pupils.

We as the School Board thank the district and the teachers for their co-operation.

—Mr. Dave T. Penner



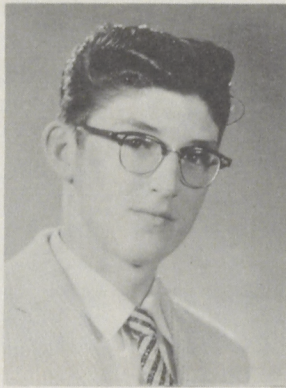
Principal's Message

Character either "makes" or "unmakes" a man. The tools of learning have in times past greatly contributed to the development of a sound personality, which, like a sturdy oak, can weather the storms of life. Therefore the education of our children and our youth is worthy of our best thoughts and efforts. Education, however, is a slow process, and "it is only by a patient continuance along a well defined path that we may hope to reach the goal"—Kretzmann.

In our striving may we learn from the "Master Teacher" that the best way out is always the way through.

—John B. Wiebe

OUR GRADUATES



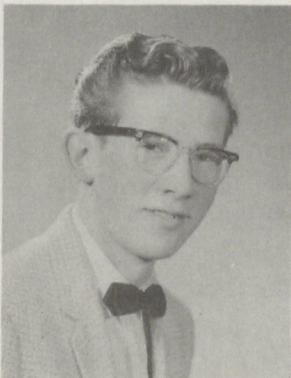
ALBERT STOESZ
PRESIDENT



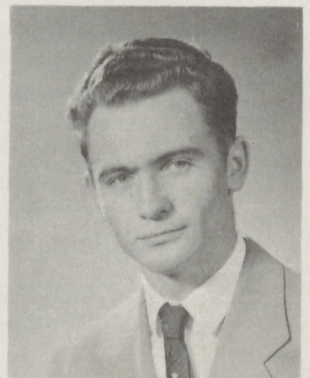
HELENA DUECK



MATHILDA ZACHARIAS
SECRETARY



HARRY HILDEBRAND



JOHN DOELL

HELENA DUECK --- ALTONA

She's a whiz at Maths and at Physics too. She's quiet and industrious, and has a clear singing voice. Her ambition is to become a teacher, in which we wish her the best of luck.

MATHILDA ZACHARIAS --- HORNDEAN

She is the girl with the cute pig tails. She usually smiles at her favourite subject --- Chemistry. She takes an active part in school work and also sports.

HARRY HILDEBRAND --- PLUM COULEE

He never misses an opportunity to render a comical remark. He is very anxious to complete his education, for his future aim is to become a teacher. He favours most subjects, but detests Chemistry. He is a good sport but likes hockey best.

JOHN DOELL --- HORNDEAN

John is the quiet and studious type of a student that everyone gets along with very well. The subject he enjoys most is Literature, but his peeve subject is Physics. His interest in sports makes him a popular sports enthusiast.

ALBERT STOESZ --- ALTONA

Albert takes special delight in Physics and in Chemistry, for he has no difficulties in them. His contributions in the field of sport will be cherished by all his fellow students.

ELMA PENNER --- PLUM COULEE

Elma's activities such as baseball, club meeting and piano lessons keep her busy. She dislikes writing exams and essays.

SUSIE PENNER --- PLUM COULEE

She is quiet and studious, and reads during her spare time. She dislikes homework and exams. As yet, her future is undecided. We wish her success in the career she chooses.

ELVERA STOESZ --- ALTONA

She enjoys being curled up in a big chair with an interesting book whenever time permits. She dislikes business practice. A trip to Europe is her future ambition.

MARILYN WIEBE --- PLUM COULEE

She keeps everybody laughing at noon recess. She enjoys art and oil painting. She dislikes homework on Sunday nights. Her future ambition is to become a secretary.

LENA HEPPNER --- ALTONA

A brown-eyed tease who's lots of fun. Reading's a pleasure when day's work is done. To be a stenographer is her ambition.

"Don't be silly"--- her favourite rendition.

ABE BERGMAN --- PLUM COULEE

Abe is an excellent student in grade ten. He enjoys Mathematics but detests English. He also takes an active part in school sports.

DON WIEBE --- PLUM COULEE

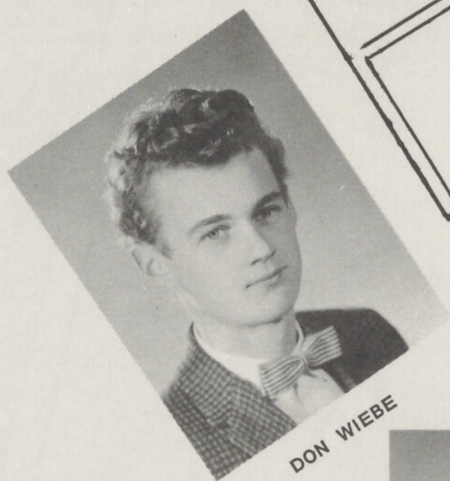
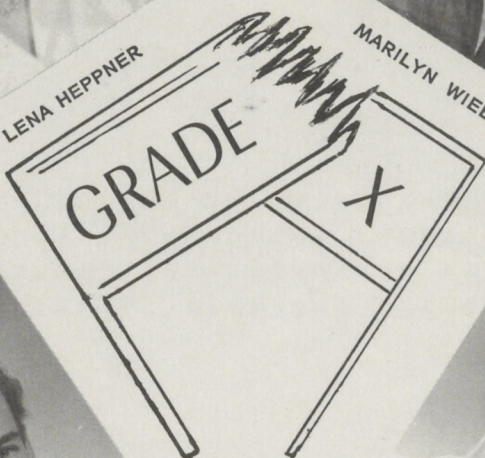
He is a bright and industrious student. He dislikes English and his favourite subject is Literature. Don is also a close follower in sports. His future ambition is as yet undecided.



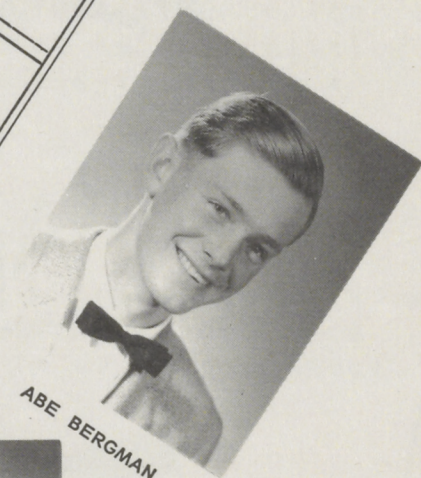
LENA HEPPNER



MARILYN WIEBE



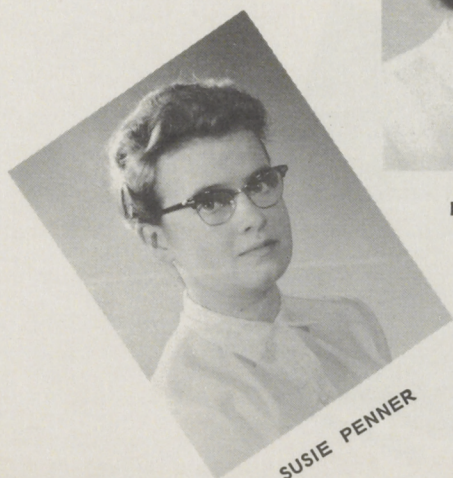
DON WIEBE



ABE BERGMAN



ELMA PENNER



SUSIE PENNER



ELVERA STOESZ



HELEN FRIESEN



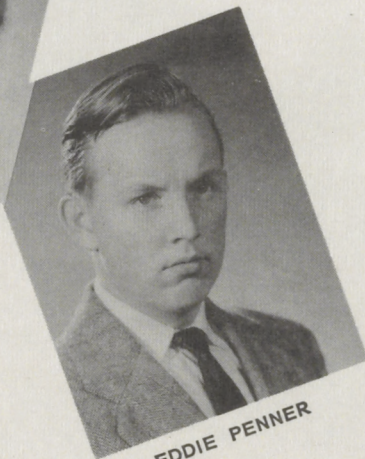
CAROL FEHR

GRADE

IX



ELVINA DUECK



EDDIE PENNER

CAROL FEHR --- ALTONA

She spends her spare time playing the piano. Her favourite subject is History, but not homework and exams. Her future ambition is to travel abroad. Her favourite expression -- be good.

ELVINA DUECK --- ALTONA

She is one of the quiet girls in school, usually seen reading and oil painting at home. She likes geometry and her ambition is to pass history.

HELEN FRIESEN --- ALTONA

She is active and full of fun. She likes convertibles and enjoys reading, listening to the radio and skating. Her pet peeve is baby sitting on Sunday nights. Her ambition is to become a secretary.

EDDIE PENNER --- HORNDEAN

Industrious, student, and a prospective farmer. He abhors English, but finds Mathematics quite easy. Enjoys farming, and also an ardent sport.

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ROOM 11

Another school year is slowly drawing to a close. With the completion of this term there will be changes made in the classrooms. There will be a gain and a loss in Room II. If all is well, five grade VIII students will be promoted to Grade IX and Room I will be generous and forward nine pupils to Room II.

Grade VIII's, I sincerely wish that when you begin your studies in Room III that you will devote all your time, concentration and ability to your studies. By doing this you will gain knowledge. Proverbs speaks of wisdom as follows: "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom and with all they getting get understanding."

It has been a pleasure to work with students that have some ambition. This question was asked in our classroom. "What is your ambition?" The replies were as follows: I don't know; farming; nursing; and being a bachelor. The latter they decided would require the least training.

Some of our school activities will be described in an essay written by Sharon Zacharias, Grade VIII.

CONGRATULATIONS

to the

GRADUATES.....TEACHERS

of the

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Grades V - VIII



Back row: Larry Friesen, Miss Helen Giesbrecht (teacher), Benny Penner, Andrew Penner, Alma Dueck, Leona Zacharias, John Penner, Sharon Zacharias, Shirley Zacharias, Henry Dueck, Bernie Penner, Willie Penner.

Front row: David Penner, Hilda Penner, Joyce Penner, Selma Giesbrecht, Grace Penner, Nora Penner, Dorothy Doell, Catherine Penner.

It is my most sincere wish that all of you will continue your studies, even though Thames South has no facilities for you to continue. I'm sure that whichever institute you enter you'll be a great contribution. Although it won't be the same as being in school where you spent most or all of your school years. You may leave some of your friends behind but you'll be making new friends and gain experience. It is through study, observation, experience and work that you'll gain wisdom. In Proverbs 16:16, we are told how valuable wisdom actually is. It speaks of wisdom as follows: "How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver."

Best wishes and complete success for the future.

Miss Helen Giesbrecht

Grades I - IV



Back row, left to right: Miss Harder (teacher), Verna Friesen, Albert Heinrichs, Henry Nickel, Edwin Penner, Willie Penner, Peter Nickel, Abe Dueck, Dennis Stoesz, Henry Penner, Jackie Dueck, Barbara Friesen.
 Second row: Verna Heinrichs, Esther Dueck, Martha Penner, Rosella Penner, Marlene Friesen, Edna Penner, Rosie Doell, Judith Penner, Verna Doell, Mary Giesbrecht, Doreen Penner, Candace Wiebe.
 First row: Marvin Giesbrecht, Abe Giesbrecht, Henry Penner, Cornie Dueck, Henry Heppner, Gerald Wiebe, Larry Penner, Eddie Giesbrecht.

Although most of you in the graduating class will be furthering your studies, you have likely given serious thought to what you hope to do in the future. Whatever your choice, be it teaching, agriculture, nursing, engineering, or some other work, the general education received in your school will not be wasted.

While under this influence you have learned to work and play with many and different individuals. This will stand you in good stead when you go out on your own where you cannot help but meet many people with varied characters.

You will live through many experiences . . . some good and some bad. The good experiences will spur you on, the bad will caution you not to repeat them; or if necessary to do so, to be better prepared to cope with them. You will have unlimited scope to display your talents, no matter in what field of work you choose to labour.

In all walks of life we are in need of wisdom and understanding. Our best source of this same wisdom and understanding is from above; the unquenchable source. As Solomon of old, it is better to seek wisdom and understanding than riches and fame, for the former will bring with it the latter, albeit not in the worldly sense but in deep inner peace and satisfaction.

May this wisdom and understanding be yours as you
 Sail on the Sea of Ambition.
 And land on the Shore of Success.

Miss Margaret Harder

Thames North Grades I - VIII



Mary Ann Bergen, Sara Thiessen, Bernie Thiessen, Walter Thiessen, Kenneth Harder, Edward Giesbrecht, Abe Bueckert, Shirley Wiebe, Valerie Harder.

Brian Harder, Diana Wolfe, Yvonne Harder, Susie Fehr, Tina Thiessen, Elizabeth Bueckert, Mary Bueckert, Annie Bueckert, Isaac Bueckert.

Justine Bueckert, Kenneth Penner, Shirley Thiessen, Menno Wiebe, Wayne Wiebe, Carolyn Giesbrecht, Irene Nickel, Helen Bergmann, Evelyn Thiessen, Judith Nickel.

Missing: Henry Bueckert, Grade 1.

Graduation is one of the most important times in the life of a young man or woman. Be it Grade eleven, twelve, college or even university, it is still a graduation and a large step forward. Many new problems will be faced and various and numerous happy moments can be anticipated. I deem this a great opportunity to be able to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the graduating class of this year.

This past year with its joys and problems will be fondly looked back upon in the years to come. The first attempt by this school at a yearbook will be a milestone upon which all participants may look with great pride. I believe that we as teachers, who were once also graduates, can sincerely say that parents, school boards, and the department of education also deserve a thankyou, for their large contributions in the forwarding of the much needed education for our young.

Mr. Victor Enns

Committee



Standing left to right: Marilyn Wiebe, Helen Friesen, Carol Fehr, Abe Bergman, Harry Hildebrand, Elma Penner, John Doell, Lena Heppner, Helena Dueck. Sitting left to right: Mathilda Zacharias, Albert Stoesz, Don Wiebe.

Piano Students



Back row, left to right: Helen Friesen, Elma Penner, Dorothy Doell. Front row, left to right: Verna Friesen, Candace Wiebe, Mrs. Wiebe (teacher), Grace Penner, Verna Heinrichs.

YEARBOOK COMMITTEE

Albert Stoesz
Donnie Wiebe
Elma Penner
Carol Fehr

SPORTS COMMITTEE

Albert Stoesz
Donnie Wiebe
Carol Fehr

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Helena Dueck
Elma Penner
Abe Bergman

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE

Helen Friesen
John Doell
Harry Hildebrand

PHOTOGRAPHY COMMITTEE

Marilyn Wiebe
Lena Heppner

Music

Music is an important and very vital part in the life of the community. It is as universal as nature and can be loved by all. Musical training helps develop characteristics that are important in all walks of life. Bartolome Cristofori was pleased with himself for he had just invented a new kind of instrument. It could be played loudly and softly. In Italian the word for soft and loud is "piano," therefore, he called his new musical invention "piano."

Today we appreciate the fact that we have instruments as well as talents and opportunities with which to serve our homes and our communities.

—Mrs. Marilyn Wiebe

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SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

During these past terms of school our class has had various social activities. On October 28, 1960 we had a Hallowe'en party. We had a short program which consisted of poems, jokes, riddles, songs and games. After the lunch of sandwiches, soft drinks and pie with ice-cream, we all went home happily.

Then on December 21, 1960 we had our annual Christmas concert. Dazzling Christmas decorations gaily filled the room in various patterns. The concert was a great success and the school was practically filled. There were Christmas carols, poems, and plays. After the distribution of gifts and closing remarks everyone left for home.

Last February we decided to have a skating party rather than a Valentine's party. We set February 17 as the day. In the morning before the bell rang everyone was bustling with excitement. When the bell finally rang everyone rushed to his desk but was rather slow in taking out the books. After a long morning the teacher announced that it was time for dinner. We had all chipped in and brought sandwiches, drinks and pie with ice-cream. After cleaning up we rushed to get our jackets on. After many "Where's my coat?" or "Who took my gloves?" we finally got started.

When we got to Altona we found that Thames South pupils were already there. We all dashed inside, everyone wanting to get onto the ice first. After about three hours of skating we headed for home, tired but happy.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

During the present school term of 1960-61 our High School students have enjoyed various social events besides sports. On Saturday, December 24 we went carolling in Plum Coulee and Horndean districts, visiting approximately thirteen homes.

On Wednesday, February 22, 1961, we gathered at school at 7:45 and left in three cars to go on a tour of several places in Winnipeg. First on the agenda was a tour to Canada Packers' plant. After seeing all the blood and smelling all the awful smells many vowed never to eat meat again. Before leaving the plant we each had coffee and doughnuts. From here the boys went to the Monastery, while the girls went to EATON'S to pass the time until dinner. After dinner we travelled out to ST. JAMES to the R. C. A. F. station. Here they showed us their fire engines, signals, their rescue helicopter, a transport plane, and explained the duties of the men in the air force. At 4:30 we were at the C.K.Y. studios. The guide led us through the various studios explaining what each was for. One of the students, Mathilda Zacharias, was the lucky one to be interviewed on the program "The Ranchhouse" hosted by Bill Grogan.

After supper we visited the C.B.W.T. studios. This was similar to the C.K.Y studios only a lot more complicated and several more studios. The evening was spent in watching a hockey game between the Winnipeg Warriors and the Portland Buckaroos in the Winnipeg arena.

Education week was observed during the week from March 6-10. There were approximately 30 visitors. The program on Wednesday of that week included samples of school work with all four rooms participating and piano pieces by Mrs. Wiebe's students. These were followed by a contest for those out of school. The contest was on politics, mathematics, geography and spelling. Doughnuts and coffee were served after the programme.

SPORTS SECTION

The Thames District has several outstanding stars and is widely known for its participation in sports activities.

In fall the general sport practised is football. In fall of 1960 the High School played several games against the neighboring schools. The opposing schools were that of Horndean, Neuhoffnung and Kronstal. We were defeated in some of these, but from several we returned victorious. Our boys out of school, together with the High School kids, also had some games on Sunday afternoons.

Pete Zacharias has been promoted from our primitive league, and he was enrolled with the Steinbach Huskies this bygone fall.

During the winter the indoor sports are played. The table tennis caught the interest of the students most of the recesses. The crokinole board was also occupied several times. Whenever the weather was bearable we played soccer with great enthusiasm.

When spring comes around the baseball season is here and with it come bats, baseballs and gloves. In the spring of 1960 our high school team was undefeated. We played teams such as Horndean, and Rosenfeld. For this year we have lost most of our stars of last year but we hope to be somewhat of the same calibre. We also have a baseball league team in this district in which some of our high school boys take part.

Otto Zacharias has already been promoted to a bigger league and was playing for the Winnipeg Black Knights the previous year.

All in all we certainly have some outstanding stars in our district of which we are extremely proud.

Activities in School

School is not really as irksome as some think, at least not in Room II.

Sports, that's our favourite. In autumn, when we played football, we won all games played. At recess the girls competed against the boys and the girls usually won. Later on in the year we played soccer at recess. We also thought up a new game, a combination of soccer and football. On stormy days we stayed inside and played ping-pong on a ping-pong table without a net. Our teacher made arrangements to go pleasure skating and play hockey at the Winkler and Altona arena. At times we competed with Gnadenthal or Thames North in hockey. As days and months went by we could finally play baseball, which is the favourite sport of most of the pupils.

As for parties, we would enjoy them any day, but work comes first and then play. We had a Hallowe'en party, Christmas program, Valentine party and an Easter program which we presented in the Wakeham school on March 30. On March 8 we had Parents Day and the parents in the district came to visit our school. In the evening we had a program after which lunch was served.

School is not so dull and boring as you may think, but quite exciting. So all in all, we at Thames South enjoy it quite well.

Sharon Zacharias

Above is a short summary of the highlights of the school term. I believe you realize that according to Sharon's composition that all students enjoy sports more than curricular activities because it isn't quite so strenuous on their "grey matter." Therefore, Room II's motto is, "First we work and then we play."

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If man unbuilted goes,
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future. May the achievements of today and
yesterday prepare you the better for accepting
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& in particular to
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